

# REUSABLE PACKAGING TODAY

Vol. No. II Issue III Published by RIPA

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## Did You Know...?

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Steel Drums was held in 1970 at the Kyoto International Conference Hall in Kyoto, Japan.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Chemical Packaging Committee  
May 2-4, 2011  
Dallas, TX

ISO Packaging Meeting  
May 2-6, 2011  
Atlanta, GA

UN Sub-Committee of Experts  
June 20 – 24, 2011  
Geneva, Switzerland

RIPA Board Meeting  
July 27, 2011  
Chicago, IL

Petroleum Packaging Council  
August 21 – 23, 2011  
Park City, Utah

Chemical Packaging Committee  
September 19-21, 2011

## CONFERENCE IN INDIANAPOLIS EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

RIPA's 2011 Technical Conference in Indianapolis exceeded everyone's expectations! Over 100 members made their way to the Hoosier State in order to network, discuss business issues, and take in a variety of talks, presentations and social events.

The conference kicked off with a Welcome Reception sponsored by several of RIPA's Supplier and Associate Members. Special thanks to those members for putting on a festive event. It was nice to see many of the "old guard" mixed in with a number of new faces.

The Product Group sessions on Monday morning were filled to overflowing with regulatory, technical and business topics. For the first time, RIPA's Flexible IBC Product Group convened to establish its scope, its initial agenda and its Chair, Mr. Richard Rubin of Maxi Container (also a former Chair of RIPA). This was followed by meetings of the Fiber Drum, Plastic Drum, Steel Drum and IBC Product Groups. See page 7 for a more detailed account of each Product Group meeting.

...See "Conference" page 4



## CANADA ISSUES DRUM RECONDITIONING REQUIREMENTS

The Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) has issued new standards for the steel drum reconditioning industry. The standard, "Reconditioning, Re-manufacturing and Repair of Drums for the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (CGSB-43.126-2008), was developed to harmonize Canadian and UN rules affecting the industry.

The standard was finalized several weeks ago, following a long period of review and revision.

...See "Canada" page 4

## 2011 FALL ANNUAL CONFERENCE TAKES RIPA TO ST. PETE!



Mark your calendars now for the 2011 RIPA Fall Annual Conference October 12-15, 2011 at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida!

RIPA has convened at the Vinoy on two previous occasions. Members really appreciate the Vinoy's lush and luxurious setting, as well as the resort's rooms, services and amenities.

RIPA promises another quality program featuring timely topics, business news, social events and, this year, the return of the Morris Hershson Award of Merit.

More information is being prepared and will be sent to RIPA members soon. Don't miss this event!

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Those of you who were unable to attend the recent Technical Conference missed a really great event!

About 100 RIPA members converged on my home town of Indianapolis for two days of meetings, social networking events and two plant tours. The Product Group meetings were filled with important information, and the business program covered three very important topics: compliance with federal immigration laws; regulatory issues related to the management of intermediate bulk containers that contained pesticides; and, compliance with composited IBC regulations. I expect that everyone attending the meeting returned home with new information that will both save money and improve the performance of their business.

I want to thank our Supplier Members, many of whom supported our Welcome Reception and helped make it and the conference such a success. And kudos to Mike Bowman, Scott McDonald and the entire staff of Banjo Corporation for hosting an amazing plant tour. I think members were surprised at the size of Banjo's product line and overall operation. Employees at every work station were friendly and clearly knowledgeable about their jobs. It is no wonder that Banjo is considered one of the nation's top producers of couplings, valves, pumps and fittings. RIPA is proud to have them as part of our association.

\* \* \* \* \*

Trade associations like RIPA provide a wide range of services to their members, including government and legal representation; current news and information about the industry; opportunities to network with our peers; meetings, and so on. Each of these services helps members understand their own business more fully and, hopefully, improve it over time.

One of the most important services that RIPA provides is professional development. Without fail, I learn something important for my business at every single meeting. It may be something as simple as a "head-up" about a pending regulation, or as fundamental as the importance of reviewing my Employment Eligibility Verification (I-9) forms for compliance. One member of the association told us during the meeting that had he been aware of the importance of technical compliance with the I-9 record-keeping requirements, he may have been able to avoid fines reaching into the low five figures! If I learn nothing at all during the remainder of the Technical Conference, this one tip was worth every dime I paid to attend, and more.

But there was more! Pete Cutt, Brian Evoy, Spencer Walker and Paul Rankin gave meeting attendees a 90-minute IBC regulatory compliance tutorial that was nothing less than exceptional. Virtually every aspect of IBC regulations was reviewed and presented in a way that was both easy to understand and technically correct. This program was so well received that the Board decided it should be expanded into a full-day seminar this fall. You and your key operations staff should not miss this event, which will be held September 13 – 14 in Denver, Colorado.

RIPA is a wise investment for your business. Take part in the programs the association offers. Not only will you enjoy yourself, you will return home a better and more effective container reconditioner; count on it.

See you in Denver!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Long".

Dennis Long



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President.....Paul Rankin  
Editor..... C.L. Pettit

## 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN OSAKA, JAPAN CANCELLED

The 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Reusable Industrial Packaging has been called off due to nuclear power plant accidents and accompanying radiation releases caused by the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

A full copy of the cancellation notice is shown below.

Upon being notified of the decision, RIPA Chairman Dennis Long said, "Although RIPA regrets the cancellation of this conference, it was the right decision. I can say with certainty that the international reconditioning industry, through ICCR, will move forward and hold the conference at a later date."

"In the meantime," said Long, "it is my hope that each company in RIPA contributes in some way to the earthquake and tsunami relief effort that is helping so many people. Our thoughts are with those families that have suffered and continue to suffer as a result of these terrible events."



ICCR: The 13th International Conference on Reusable Industrial Packaging  
Organized by JDRA: Nakamulima Dai Bldg, 60/c, 33-23 Nakamulima, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-6106

April 18, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

**Notice of cancellation of**  
**"the 13th International Conference on Reusable Industrial Packaging"**

We regret to inform you that the "13th International Conference on Reusable Industrial Packaging" planned in September 2011 and fully supported by the person concerned were called off, due to the accident of nuclear power plants in Fukushima, caused by the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. This decision has been accepted by the ICCR Governing Body.

As an obvious reason, the demand of self-restraint to travel Japan from several foreign countries invited the declination of the participant due to the accident and rumor damage of nuclear power plant caused with the above mentioned earthquake disaster. Consequently, we could not hope for the success of International Conference.

Furthermore, the situation not being able to find any concrete measures to stave off the danger of radioactive emission from the damaged nuclear power plant has been continuing as yet. Even the U.S. NRC (the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) and IAEA are refraining from judging the situation for a safety/relief at present.

And, METI's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency and the Nuclear Safety Commission of Japan raised their assessment to level 7 of "Major Accident", on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) on the 12th April.

Based on the above situation, the Board of Japan Drum Reconditioners' Association (JDRA) and International Committee made a very harsh decision to cancel the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on April 14, because nobody could predict at when the situation will be improved even if this conference is postponed.

We do hope every person concerned will understand clearly for the contents mentioned above. Also, we apologize for troubling you but look forward to your further support and encouragement in the future.

Sincerely yours.

Japan Drum Reconditioners' Association  
Minoru Inaba, Conference Chairman  
Kiyokazu Nakamura, Program Chairman

*continued from page 1 "Conference"*

In the afternoon, RIPA's Board of Directors met and worked on important administrative, financial and policy issues. Meanwhile, over 40 members were treated to a tour of Indianapolis Drum Service (An Earth-Minded Co.). This event was not on the original agenda but was graciously bestowed by Dennis Long and his staff upon everyone's arrival in "Indy".

That evening featured a wonderful Chair's Reception in the hotel's revolving restaurant on the top floor. The views were spectacular and the crowd was in a jubilant mood.

The following morning, attendees enjoyed timely presentations from experts on issues including immigration and employer responsibilities, IBCs in agrochemical service, and composite IBC compliance. Attendees then boarded buses for the trip out to the Banjo Corporation's facility in Crawfordville about 50 minutes away. The Banjo facility was much greater in scale and scope than most would have imagined. The tour was handled exceptionally well by Banjo's staff. RIPA extends sincere thanks to everyone at Banjo, and Scott McDonald in particular, for extending the invitation. Even EPA's key presenter on IBCs and agchem shipping, Ms. Nancy Fitz, took the opportunity to see the operation.

Attendees certainly enjoyed a tremendous value at this year's Technical Conference. For the fall Annual Conference, RIPA will deliver another quality program, October 12-15, 2011, at the Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida!

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*continued from page 1 "Canada"*

The key provisions of the new Canadian Standard are:

- (1) Clarification that steel drums having a capacity greater than 150 liters may be reused for dangerous goods only if they have top head, body and bottom head markings equal to or greater than 1.0/0.8/1.0.
- (2) Plastic drums greater than 150 liters capacity must be marked with a minimum thickness of 2.2 mm or greater to enable reuse.
- (3) Steel drums requiring leakproofness testing must be tested for 5 minutes "...or by an equivalent test method." Each reconditioner must document and maintain records of their "equivalent" test method.
- (4) Plastic drums may not be reused if they are older than sixty-months (5-years).

The CGSB standard may be purchased from the Canadian General Standards Board. Visit its web site at <http://www.ccohs.ca/legislation/cgsb.html>.

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## **DOT CLARIFIES CLOSURE INSTRUCTION ISSUE**

In an April 11, 2011 letter to the Council on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles (COSTHA), PHMSA Regulatory Review and Reinvention Branch Chief T. Glenn Foster said that companies offering (or reoffering) for transportation packages that were previously closed and shipped are not required to obtain or send closure instructions to customers.

A COSTHA member that re-sells previously closed packages had been told by an Agency representative that the company was required to obtain closure instructions. COSTHA said that its interpretation of the closure instruction provisions (178.2(c)(i)(A) was that only companies selling empty packagings that were intended to be filled with hazardous materials, closed and shipped, were required to send closure instructions. Fillers are required to retain copies of the instructions for 365 days from the date the package is offered for transportation.

DOT agreed with COSTHA in all respects. The Agency said:

"[C]losure instruction notification is required to inform the user of a hazardous materials packaging of all the requirements the packaging does not meet at the time of transfer. A completed package that is properly closed meets all the requirements contained in its closure instruction notification at the time it is offered for transportation....Therefore, provided the package is not opened and continues to meet its performance standard, the HMR do not require the person who received the packaging and is re-offering it for transportation to retain its closure instructions...."

Copies of the letter are available from RIPA.

## **SCHUTZ PREVAILS IN UN IBC CROSS-BOTTLING LAWSUIT**

The United Kingdom's second highest court has ruled that by placing another manufacturer's IBC bottle in a Schutz cage, the reconditioner and the bottle seller infringed on a Schutz patent. The bottle manufacturer (Werit) and the reconditioner (Delta) are considering an appeal to the United Kingdom Court of Justice.

### **Background**

Approximately two years ago, Schutz sued Werit in the U.K., saying that by making a non-Schutz and non-licensed replacement bottle and selling it to Delta (a reconditioner) to put into a used Schutz cage, both Werit and Delta were infringing on the Schutz patent.

The lower court judge looked in detail at the Schutz patent and concluded that the "invention" in the patent only related to cage assembly with welded tubes with dimples. He did not find that the patent included the entire IBC, encompassing the pallet, the bottle, and the cage. So, in the lower court, Werit and Delta won. On appeal, the court reversed this decision.

At about the same time in the United States, Schutz filed a parallel suit against Mauser, making essentially the same claims regarding the use of Schutz cages, i.e. patent and trademark infringement. Importantly, the U.S. courts have thrown out the Schutz patent infringement claim and, apparently, Schutz has agreed not to pursue this matter further against Mauser. Only the trademark infringement issues remains in litigation.

### **Impact of the UK Decision**

The impact of the Schutz v. Werit patent infringement ruling is, for the moment, limited to the UK. It could influence other European cross-bottling activities, particularly with respect to firms sending materials into the UK in cross-bottled IBCs.

However, since Schutz has already lost in the U.S. on the issue it prevailed on in the UK, i.e. patent infringement, the decision appears to have little to no legal impact in the U.S.

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## **UN PACKAGING PAPERS**

Two proposals affecting dangerous goods packaging have been submitted to the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. The Sub-Committee meets June 20 – 24, 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The proposals address electrostatic discharge prevention requirements for plastics packaging and vibration testing of large (i.e. > 1,500 kg. mass) intermediate bulk containers.

### **Electrostatic discharge**

The Expert from Germany has submitted a paper that would extend to all packagings an existing requirement for IBCs requiring shippers to "take measures to prevent a dangerous electrostatic discharge." The German Expert believes that electrostatic discharge is a potentially serious problem, particularly in the loading and unloading of powders and liquids with a flash point of 60° C or lower.

The current provision, found in paragraph 4.1.2.1 of the UN Model Regulations, was controversial when it was adopted last year because electrostatic discharge is almost exclusively a problem arising during loading and unloading operations. As such, the issue is not strictly a transportation safety matter. This question will no doubt be explored in greater detail now that the proposal could be extended to all packagings.

### **IBC vibration testing**

The United Kingdom has asked the Sub-Committee of Experts to consider eliminating the vibration testing requirements for intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) over 1,500 kg. gross mass. IBCs of this size would weigh approximately 3,300 pounds. For purposes of comparison, a 330 gallon IBC containing water would weigh about 2,800 pounds.

The UK Expert says that very few IBCs of this size are produced; no designs of this size have failed a vibration test; test facilities in Europe and globally generally can not accommodate IBCs above 1,500 kilograms, due to weight and size; and, in any event, the UK has "initiated" a multi-lateral agreement with ADR/RID countries exempting IBCs above 1,500 kilograms from the vibration test.

The UK proposal suggests three possible solutions:

- (a) Eliminate the vibration test requirement for all IBCs.
- (b) Eliminate the vibration test requirement for IBCs above 1,500 kg. gross mass.
- (c) Eliminate the vibration test requirement for IBCs "not suitable for stacking."

Based upon discussions held at the Sub-Committee in June, it is likely the UK will formulate a paper with a specific solution and bring it to the Sub-Committee at its December meeting.

## PRODUCT GROUP REPORTS

**Flexible IBC Product Group.** The Flexible IBC Product group had its inaugural meeting at the 2011 Technical Conference. RIPA staff reported that a survey had gone out to all members seeking data on the extent to which members reconditioned and/or distributed FIBCs; only one respondent indicated any significant reconditioning activity. This member reported that over 5000 FIBCs were reconditioned in the past year, and that 40 % of all incoming units are diverted for recycling or disposal. This reconditioner also noted that the typical size for an FIBC is 275 gallons or 2000 lbs. Finally, the respondent indicated that reconditioning did not currently include any washing.

Several other survey respondents said that they would be interested in more information on this packaging and would participate in the new Product Group.

Richard Rubin of Maxi Container was appointed by RIPA's Chair Dennis Long as the Product Group's first Chair. Richard said that his company and a number of other RIPA members do distribute new FIBCs. He also advised those that will participate in future Product Group proceedings that FIBCs could represent a new market opportunity.

The group agreed that a presentation on FIBCs from a manufacturer would be useful at the next conference. Staff agreed to initiate contacts with the association for FIBC manufacturers and seek to have a speaker on the fall conference program.



Banjo Corporation Headquarters



Ms. Nancy Fitz, EPA

**Fiber Drum Product Group.** As Chair Paul Jakacki was unable to attend, RIPA's Technical Director, C.L. Pettit, filed a report and lead discussions. Pettit reported that an Approval from DOT issued several years ago to the Fiber Drum Institute expired March 31, 2011. The Approval established parameters for design and periodic testing providing needed clarity to the testing process.

Pettit reported that, in the wake of DOT's new policy barring companies from holding Approvals through their associations, the major fiber drum manufacturers had requested recently and received a new approval.

The group discussed the qualification testing conducted annually by several member companies each summer for the past few years. Periodic retesting would again be scheduled to coincide with the RIPA Board's summer meeting in Chicago.

**Plastic Drum Product Group.** Product group Chair, Mike Chorpash, introduced as a guest speaker Mr. Jerry Geyer from Greif, who also is Chair of IPANA's Plastic Drum Institute (PDI). Mr. Geyer presented statistics on plastic drums which show some growth in drums produced over the previous two years. Total drum production for 2010 was estimated at near 15 million, up about 2 million over 2009.

Mr. Geyer reviewed with attendees a PDI Technical Paper on drum stacking, as well as the industry's disagreement with DOT on whether a change in resin supplier (but not specifications) constitutes a packaging design-type. Also the issue of aging HDPE was discussed.

The Product Group then agreed to support PDI's position on a proposal at the UN regarding the "date wheel mark". Also, the group decided to lend support to PDI's efforts to extend to its individual members a renewed approval from DOT to manufacture drums from "regrind". These member companies would be *individual* approval holders, in keeping with DOT's recent policy changes forbidding trade associations to hold Approvals.



Ms. Jenifer Brown

...Continued on next page

## PRODUCT GROUP REPORTS CONT'D



Mark Schweitz and Pete Cutt

**Steel Drum Product Group.** The Steel Drum Product Group heard a report on EPA's recent decision to heed RIPA's advice and drop drum furnaces from its proposed regulations for air emissions. The agency went even further and dropped out the category "burn-off ovens" altogether, a category into which drum furnaces had been haphazardly placed. The group was advised that EPA could still return in the future to consider emissions limits for drum furnaces, but that such a move would now allow more control by RIPA over how representative operating parameters should be defined (e.g., temperature, air flow etc.).

The group discussed rule changes for steel drums in Canada's regulatory code (see related story on page 1), as well as periodic retesting of cer-

tain 1A1 design types sponsored independently by a group of RIPA members. Then the group heard from an impassioned Peter DeWitt (DeWitt Barrels) about his company's experience receiving from DOT an approval for ultrasonic leak testing of steel and plastic drums. DeWitt had sage advice for anyone else seeking an approval. RIPA's members owe the entire DeWitt family and staff sincere thanks for leading the way and persisting in their efforts to get recognition for this application of a well known technology.



Carlos Mosto and Yana Ulmer

**IBC Product Group.** The IBC Product Group discussed the definition of "triple rinsing" as that term is used by the EPA and DOT. C.L. Pettit offered an overview of EPA activities relating to the regulation of IBCs in Ag-chem service. Product Group Chairman Pete Cutt and Brian Evoy provided an update on issues related to the management of residue retained in "empty" IBCs. The Group decided that RIPA should host an IBC Compliance Seminar later in the year, aimed at plant managers and key compliance personnel.



Bob Vannetter, Rick Rubin, Dean Ricker, and Josip Petrusic

**Plenary Product Group Session.** In a plenary session for the Product Groups, attendees heard reports on DOT enforcement practices, staff changes, administrative issues and budget requests. They also heard about DOT proposals for stricter hours-of-service rules for truck drivers, and new rules banning "texting" and other uses of cell phones while driving. Finally, the group heard a report on the development of an ISO international environmental packaging standard. RIPA's President, Paul Rankin, is an active member of the group working on the standard, and his participation ensures that industrial packaging reuse is accorded its due con-

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## THE FUTURE "GREENING" OF HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS?

Late in 2010, U.S. EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration jointly proposed a set of standards for heavy-duty trucks to meet in terms of fuel efficiency and emissions of greenhouse gases. The plan would call for truck manufacturers to begin adopting the standards with the 2014 model year and by 2018 reducing emissions by fully 20 percent.

Meanwhile in California, regulators have already issued rules on heavy duty trucks emitting greenhouse gasses like carbon monoxide (CO). The state's Air Resources Board has in place requirements that heavy duty trucks be equipped with fuel efficiency technologies that result in lower emissions. These technologies include: "idle reduction technologies", "aerodynamic technologies" and "low rolling resistance tires". For details on these technologies, see EPA's "Smartway" list of certified technologies at:

<http://www.epa.gov/smartway/transport/what-smartway/verified-technologies.htm>

Be advised that if you are domiciled outside California but send trucks into the state, you are nevertheless expected to meet the state's requirements.

## **ENVIRONMENT-FOCUSED PACKAGING ORGANIZATION FORMED**

A group of leading U.S. corporations have established a new packaging trade organization that will be active on public policy issues related to packaging and the environment. AMERIPEN will represent a broad spectrum of packaging industry interests, including raw material producers, packaging manufacturers, packaging users and fillers, retailers and material recovery organizations.

Corporate founders include The Coca-Cola Company, Colgate-Palmolive, ConAgra Foods, The Dow Chemical Co., DuPont Packaging & Industrial Polymers, Kellogg Company, MeadWestvaco (MWV), Procter & Gamble, Sealed Air Corporation and Tetra Pak Inc.

Modeled after EUROOPEN and INCPEN, the European and British counterparts, respectively, AMERIPEN will advocate packaging policy developments in North America focusing on measures that are environmentally and economically sound, as well as socially responsible. AMERIPEN, with a material neutral approach, will encourage science-based decision-making on sustainable packaging initiatives and provide a point-of-view and guidance to policy makers and thought leaders on the value and role of packaging.

"AMERIPEN will further enhance the packaging value chain's commitment to continuously improving its sustainability profile and reducing packaging waste," said Joan Pierce, AMERIPEN President. "The organization will play an instrumental role in conveying this message to opinion leaders in North America and ensuring that participants in the packaging value chain have maximum scope to innovate, compete and operate in a resource-efficient way," she said. "Today, the complexity of environmental issues confronting packaging is greater than ever. Having a voice to represent common industry views on these matters and help shape public policy is absolutely essential."

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## **DAVID FISCHER TO SUCCEED MICHAEL GASSER AS GREIF, INC. CEO**

Greif, Inc. President David B. Fischer, 48, will add the title of CEO at the start of the company's 2012 fiscal year, Nov. 1, 2011. Current Chairman and CEO Michael J. Gasser, 59, will continue in his role as executive chairman.

"I've worked closely with Dave for a number of years, and am pleased that Greif will be in such capable hands day-to-day," said Gasser. "After this transition, I will be able to focus more intently on corporate strategy and on ensuring that the culture of The Greif Way is embedded deeply in all our operations. And as executive chairman of the Board, I will continue to be actively involved in the company, albeit at a higher level.

"With the executive team already in place, and the superb talent working up through the ranks, I remain wholly optimistic about Greif's future and its continued growth."

Gasser has been chairman and CEO since June 1994. He joined Greif in 1979 as internal auditor at the company's headquarters in Delaware, Ohio. He became controller in 1981, a member of the finance committee in 1987, vice president of finance in 1988, a member of the board of directors in 1991, vice chairman and chief operating officer in 1994 and chairman and CEO later that year.

In 1994, Greif was an industrial packaging company with operations in the US and Canada, with \$526 million in sales and 4,500 employees. Under Gasser's leadership, Greif has grown to become a multi-national company with operations in 56 countries, 2010 sales of \$3.5 billion and 16,000 employees.

Gasser serves on the board of directors of Bob Evans Farms and of the James Foundation, the development board for The James Cancer Center at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Fischer was named president and chief operating officer of Greif in October 2007. He joined Greif as senior vice president and divisional president, Industrial Packaging & Services – Americas in November 2004, and later assumed responsibility for additional IP&S operations in Asia, Australia and Africa.

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## **GWC SERVICES ACQUIRES CAN-AM**

GWC Services announced March 4, 2011 that it has acquired all shares of Can-Am Containers Inc. (Can-Am). Can-Am will continue to operate under its highly-respected trade name as a subsidiary of GWC Services Ltd, parent company of Great Western Containers. Can-Am Steel Drums Ltd. was created in 1963. Current owner of Can-Am, Mr. Rod Stewart, began working in the family business in 1975. In addition to reconditioning services for drums and IBC's, Can-Am also recycles paint cans, 20 litre pails, car boys and pallets...everything from 4 litres to 1200 litres. Contacts at Can-Am will remain as is. Mr. Stewart is excited about staying on and will act as General Manager of Can-Am Containers, as well as an advisor on reconditioning operations in Canada more generally.



**HazMat News**

**What is FDA doing to assess the situation in Japan?**

FDA's screening at U.S. borders will remain vigilant and will be augmented with radiation screening of shipments. On March 22, 2011, in order to complement the measures taken by the Government of Japan and to strengthen the global food safety net regarding certain products, [FDA issued Import Alert 99-33](#) regarding the importation of all milk and milk products and fresh vegetables and fruits produced or manufactured from the four Japanese prefectures of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gunma. Based on current information, there is no risk to the U.S. food supply. FDA is closely monitoring the situation in Japan and is working with the Japanese government and other U.S. agencies to continue to ensure that imported food remains safe. FDA already has a very robust screening process for imports and has staff in place at the ports to monitor incoming products. FDA does not have concerns with the safety of imported food products that have already reached the U.S. and that are in distribution. Imports from Japan include human and animal foods, medical devices and radiation emitting products, cosmetics, animal and human drugs and biologics, dietary supplements, and animal feeds. The most common food products imported include seafood, snack foods, and processed fruits and vegetables. Foods imported from Japan make up less than 4 percent of foods imported from all sources and 60 percent of all products imported from Japan are foods. (Food products from Canada and Mexico each make up about 29 percent of all imported foods.) Please see the joint fact sheet with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for additional information on this developing situation.

— Howard Skolnik

**Roaming Reptile Curtails Federal Operations!**



No, this is not an April Fool's joke!. On Sunday, March 27, the Government Printing Office (GPO) announced that a 27-foot Bolivian python &mdash; an endangered species &mdash; escaped from the National Zoo and slithered into the underground vault holding the official copies of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Before it was incapacitated by numerous darts filled with strong sedatives, the snake managed to swallow Titles 33 and 46 of the CFR. It took veterinarians 12 hours to extract the important documents. In the interim, the US Coast Guard, Maritime Administration (MARAD), St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Federal Maritime Commission, and US Army Corps of Engineers had to curtail operations for lack of authority. (March 31 &mdash; Bryant's Maritime Blog!)

— Howard Skolnik

**Wine Making News**

**Taking Care of your Stainless Steel Wine Drums**

One of the primary benefits of a stainless steel wine barrel is that they can last a lifetime. However, the attractive and hygienic surface of stainless steel cannot be maintained without proper care and protection. To achieve maximum corrosion resistance to the surface of the stainless steel it must be kept clean and protected from deep scratches. Proper storage, usage, and regular cleanings will ensure good performance and a long life. One of the most common causes of damage that we observe is caused by the storage of stainless steel barrels on carbon steel wine racks. Stainless steel can be contaminated by the pick-up of carbon steel ("free iron") and this is likely to lead to rapid localized corrosion (rusting) on the barrel. This often happens when the barrels are rotated on the wine racks causing friction between the stainless steel barrel and the carbon steel wine rack. To prevent contact between stainless and carbon steel, we recommend covering either the wine barrel in a durable fabric; a food grade plastic; or a rubber padding to prevent scratches and direct metal to metal contact. The ultimate and best solution is to store your stainless steel wine barrels on stainless steel wine racks like those available from [Western Square](#). Also, keep in mind that the handling tools such as mixing paddles, rakes and shovels should also be made of compatible materials like food grade plastic or stainless steel. This will also help to maintain the life your stainless steel barrels and tanks. With proper care your Skolnik stainless steel wine barrels will last for generations

— Dean Ricker

**Looking to BUY?**

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**Looking for ANSWERS?**

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**Closure Instructions**

 **Find It Here**



SKOLNIK is a "specialized" manufacturer of [carbon](#) steel drums and stainless steel drums for highly valued contents. From custom wine barrels to drums for hazardous materials (hazmat) and dangerous goods, we are a leader in specialty packaging.

# STAINLESS DRUMS



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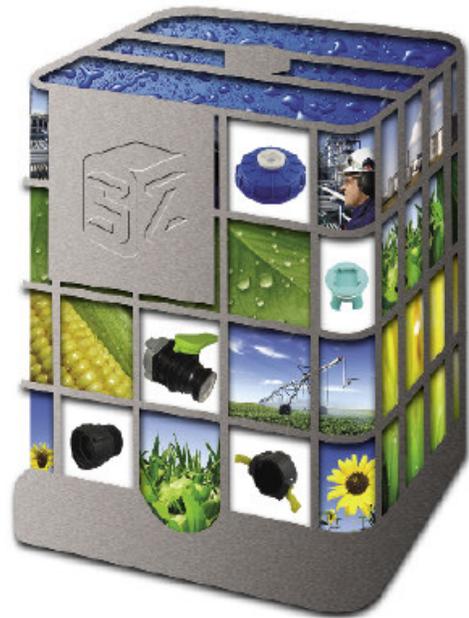
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Stainlez is an industry-leading manufacturer of container components. From valves to caps and lids, our products make containers safer, easier, more reliable, and working in perfect harmony with one another.

Just because we design and custom build some of the most trusted container parts on the market doesn't mean we're standing still.

Stainlez is always moving, innovating, and creating - striving to make our container parts and container systems the most technologically advanced in the world.



Our staff knows IBC and drum parts, any technical questions regarding design, development, testing and real world usage is our expertise. For samples, specifications, and pricing contact us at 877-971-7987 or [www.stainlez.com](http://www.stainlez.com)

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Designing custom components is just part of what  
**MAKES US A WHOLE LOT BETTER.**

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